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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

May 28, 1976

Ref - TCS -
889187-76

The Honorable Fred C. Ikle
Director, United States Arms Control
and Disarmament Agency
Washington, D. C. 20451

Dear Fred,

Thank you for your recent letter on the classification of various aspects of the U. S. satellite reconnaissance program.

There does seem to be a wide difference of opinion when it comes to the question of classification or declassification.

One of the great frustrations of this job is that we cannot share more with the American people. I am convinced that if we could, the people would give much more support to the CIA and to intelligence in general. Thus, with the help of Ed Proctor and others, and a mandate given in the President's Executive Order, I am trying to take a forthright approach toward declassification. Your letter was stimulating and sometime perhaps we should discuss it in person.

I still have in mind your willingness to appear before certain Congressional committees or in other forums to help us convince Congress and others that there is a legitimate need for secrecy. Somehow we've got to find our way between this mine field of legitimate and necessary secrets on the one hand and overclassification on the other.

Thanks for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

George Bush

cc: Ed Proctor

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Letter to The Honorable Fred C. Ikle, Director, US
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency re Classification
of Satellite Reconnaissance

X1A CONCUR:



Deputy Director for Intelligence

26 May 76
Date

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

The Honorable Fred C. Ikle
Director, United States Arms Control
and Disarmament Agency
Washington, D. C. 20451

Dear Fred:

Thank you for your views on the classification of various aspects of the US satellite reconnaissance program which were expressed in your memorandum of May 18. As you are aware, other users of intelligence and many in the Intelligence Community have opinions about this matter which differ from yours in some significant respects. I can assure you that your concerns along with those of others will be given full consideration in our reassessment of the problem.

Sincerely,

George Bush
Director

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